

just a little better and would encourage its adoption. I move the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. There is an amendment.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Schimek would move to amend the committee amendments with AM0899, Senator, page 1057.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I'm looking to see which amendment this is on page 1057 in your Journal. The purpose of this amendment is to strike the part of the committee amendment that strikes the red ink and also would keep the verification process intact that the task force recommended. Let me say, first of all, that all four of these areas that Senator Robinson just went through in the committee amendment were areas that the petition process task force did discuss at great length and you know there was a lot of difference of opinion about whether we should put in red ink, whether it should be three months or one month, so on and so forth. But let me tell you my reasons for asking you to reinstate the red ink. It is my understanding that on petitions last time a very light, very light green ink was used and it was very difficult to read the language and, in fact, it probably wasn't very noticeable. One of the arguments against using the red ink on petitions was that it would be expensive and I would submit to you that the language in present statute already asks for a contrasting color. So I don't believe that is the issue really and truly. It wouldn't cost any more to use red ink than it would green ink and, in addition, it was discussed in the task force that you could always use just a plain old stamp pad and red ink and accomplish the purpose with very little investment. Secondly, the second part of the amendment that I would like you to reconsider is the portion that deals with the verification process, and as you may or may not know, we had two election commissioners who served on our task force. One of them was Patty Hansen from Lancaster County, the other one was Nadine Heath from Lincoln County and they felt very strongly that there needed to be a better system of verification in the state because there was such an uneven interpretation of the law from county to county and they thought that it should be part of the process that the ultimate decision maker would be the Secretary of State. And so the original language of the bill provided for that and provided that if the county clerks and